

Peking NCNA in English Morse to Southeast Asia Europe and North America 1640 11/23

(Text) Peking--The Military Tribunal of the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China today sentenced 22 American spies to death or to imprisonment from 4 years to life. They include a colonel and a major of the U.S. Air Force.

These American spies, of whom 13 are U.S. citizens and 9 are Chinese Nationals, were convicted of the crime of seriously jeopardizing the security of China. They were involved in two espionage cases.

One espionage group was led by John Knox Arnold, Jr., 41, of Washington, D.C., Commanding Officer (Colonel) of the U.S. "581st Air Resupply and Communications Wing." Under him was William Hurl Baumer, 32, of Pennsylvania, Operations Officer (Major) of the 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, U.S. Far East Air Force.

The other espionage case involved John Thomas Downey (alias Jack Donovan) 24, born in Connecticut, and Richard George Fecteau, 27, born in Massachusetts, both special agents of the Central Intelligence Agency, a U.S. espionage organization.

Downey and Fecteau worked with the Atsuki, Japan, espionage organization of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. In the spring of 1952, Downey selected special agents of Chinese nationality and organized them into two teams--"Team Wen" and "Team Shen"--which were later airdropped into Kirin and Liaoning provinces in China. In October, 1952, Downey also had Li Chun-Ying, another agent, airdropped into Kirin province to conduct liaison and subversive activities. In August, 1952, him himself stole into Kirin province in a U.S. plane to airdrop food and supplies for "Team Wen."

Downey and Fecteau were both captured on the night of Nov. 29, 1952, when they entered Northeast China in a U.S. plane, made contact with and provided supplies to airdropped agents and attempted to pick up Li Chun-Ying who was to report. Their plane was shot down.

The nine special agents of Chinese nationality who had been airdropped by Downey into Kirin and Liaoning provinces are all former officers of the Chiang Kai-Shek gang. They were taken up in 1951 by the "Free China Movement," a U.S. espionage organization in Hong Kong, and given espionage training. They had later undergone further secret training directly under Downey. They were then issued with arms and radio sets and secretly airdropped into Northeast China. Their task was to establish "bases" there for armed agents, set up "safety points" for sheltering agents, to build "Parachuting Grounds" to receive airdropped supplies and agents, establish secret communications lines connecting the "bases" with Mukden, collect information about defense works in China, the location of industrial areas and meteorological conditions, rescue invading American airmen who were shot down, and rally Chiang Kai-Shek's remnant bandits for armed riot.

The "581st Air Resupply and Communications Wing," of which Arnold was the Commanding Officer, was charged with the task of carrying out espionage activities in the service of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. The functions of the wing are to airdrop special agents into China and the Soviet Union, supply these agents and keep in communication with them. The wing was activated in July, 1951, at the Mountain Home Air Base, Idaho. After a year's special training in assembling special agents, airdropping and resupplying, as well as in maintaining liaison with special agents on the ground, it was transferred in July 1952, to the Clark Air Base in the Philippines, to conduct hostile activities against China and the maritime areas of the Soviet Union in the Far East. The Vaadi and Chapelle crews of this wing were later assigned to the 91st Strategic

Reconnaissance Squadron of the U.S. Far East Air Force Bomber Command, which has the Soviet Union as its main targets of reconnaissance.

William Hurl Baumer on many occasions carried out air reconnaissance of China's national defense installations.

On January 12, 1953, Arnold and Baumer intruded into China's territorial air over Liaoning province. Their plane was shot down and three of the agents were killed in the plane. The other 11 spies, all U.S. citizens, were captured.

The sentences passed by the Military Tribunal of the supreme People's Court on the American spies are as follows:

John Thomas Downey, Life imprisonment;

Richard George Fecteau, 20 years imprisonment;

Hsu Kwang-Chih, Yu Kuan-Chou, Wang Wei-Fan and Wang Chin-Sheng, Death;

Chang Tsai-Wen, Luan Heng-Shan, Chung Tien-Hsing, and Li Chun-Ying, life imprisonment;

Niu Sung-Lin, 15 years imprisonment;

John Knox Arnold Junior, 10 years imprisonment;

William Hurl Baumer, 8 years imprisonment;

Eugene John Vaadi, 33, of New York, USA, Captain, Aircraft Commander of the U.S. "581st Air Resupply and Communications Wing," 6 years imprisonment;

Elmer Fred Llewellyn and Wallace Lamer Brown, members of the Vaadi crew, 5 years imprisonment each;

John Woodrow Buck, Howard William Brown, Steven Edward Kiba, Harry Martin Benjamin, Jr., John Walker Thompson and Daniel Chris Schmidt members of the Vaadi crew, 4 years imprisonment each.

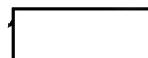
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